









as almost at our doors, the presence of this dead victim may well be considered a matter of grave apprehension to the inhabitants of the Australian colonies. Hitherto we have enjoyed an absolute immunity from rabies in the colonies, and the severe restrictions, amounting in some cases to prohibition, which some of the colonies have imposed on the importation of dogs, mark the severity of the public dread of animal fatal and insidious invasion. Hydrocephalus differs probably from all maladies in the great length of time during which it may be dormant, and from the absolute absence of any symptoms of its presence during such period of dormancy. It is alleged that it may be even for years latent in the system, and that when excited by adventitious causes, it may manifest itself with extreme virulence. This circumstance not only increases the difficulty of making sure of its existence, but makes it almost impossible to eradicate it, if once it has obtained a footing in a country; while in those colonies where special causes exist that would tend to give a wide scope to its development, and make its prevalence difficult to stamp out. Apart from its real value in the life of man, the introduction of hydrocephalus into Australia would deal a heavy blow to that kind of confidential relation which subsists between man and that faultlessness of all the friends that man has among the lower animals, the dog; for let us once fear that our pets and the playmates of our children may have in them the possibility of conveying one of the most dreadful of diseases and the most dreadful of all forms of death, and at once the creature that would freely sacrifice its life for its owner becomes an object of suspicion and fear. But this is more than a matter of sentiment, for every bite of a dog, which in Australia at present is only regarded as a minor incident of temporary pain and inconvenience, would be liable to a charge of murder, and many years have passed away in those circumstances since the practice of hydrocephalus to near our shores, and at a point with which we have so frequent intercourse, is not to be lightly regarded; and it affords another reason to show the urgent necessity for a federal quarantine law that would place the whole of Australia under one stringent régime. Whatever it is that has given us immunity, whether the length of voyage, or the rapidly developing influence of passing through the tropical heats, or whatever it is we have to do with it, we have hydrocephalus almost under the line, and within the distance of a voyage of a week, or of the coast of New Zealand. It is evident that if hydrocephalus reached any point of our Northern territory, or elsewhere in Australia, its spread over the continent would be merely a matter of time, and that the most stalwart and even prohibitory of the import of dogs in one colony is utterly futile, unless legislation is uniform throughout Australia. We have frequently received warnings of the necessity for federal quarantine laws; the latest and perhaps the most startling is probably this outbreak of hydrocephalus at Singapore.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Jervois attended a invitation of the committee of the National Juvenile Industrial Exhibition, Prince Alfred Park on Saturday next.

The morning the sitting of the Federation Convention deliberations will be continued in the Assembly building. It is probable that each committee will consider its business and the resolution to be submitted to the Convention on the following day. The constitutional machinery committee, under the presidency of Sir Samuel G. O'Farrell, will meet at 10.30 a.m.

The other committees are:- Mr. Gillies, Mr. D'Arcy, Mr. Henry Parks and Mr. Barton (M.A.W.), Mr. Playford and Sir John Darnewell (M.A.), Mr. Thyne (Q.), Mr. Clark and Mr. Douglass (M.), Mr. J. Forster and Sir J. Lee Steere (W.), Mr. George Grey and Mr. C. W. T. Moore (M.).

Mr. McMillan, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Macmillan and Sir H. A. Atkinson. The deliberations last about two hours, and so much progress was made with the points discussed that the Committee hopes to be able to submit the resolution to the Convention when the debate is resumed in public to-morrow. It may be stated that there is no foundation in the rumour to which we referred on Saturday to the effect that the Committee would recommend the adoption of the Victorian bill as the general tariff under a Federal Parliament.

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